MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The money due as T. A. would be given as and when the bills are presented and passed and not periodically.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil cum Devicolam*): So, these bills were not in contemplation at the time of the preparation of the last budget? Were they not brought before the attention of the Registrar last year?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Yes. It was only towards the end of Audi, that is to say, after the budget was prepared and passed that the Registrar brought this to the notice of Government.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): How long is it that this claim is outstanding?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): From the beginning of Vrischikam and Makaram of last year.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Why was it not paid then?

MR. P. N KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Because the claim was not preferred.

The Demand was put to the vote of the House and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXI—ANCHAL DEPARTMENT.

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Sir, I move for an additional grant not exceeding Rs. 20 under Demand XXI—Anchal Department—for the appointment of two additional clerks in the Kottarakara Anchal Office, one on Rs. 20 per mensem and another on Rs. 15 per mensem. The amount is but nominal. The Anchal Superintendent reports that the expenditure that may be required for the appointment of these two additional clerks for the remaining period of the year, namely not more than Rs. 280, may be found from the savings under establishment charges sanctioned in the budget. But I come before this House in vindication of a principle. The Government are desirous of giving an opportunity to this House to vote upon the necessity for the appointment of these two additional clerks, because the expenditure may be recurring. The existing staff of the Kottarakara Anchal Office consists of a Master on Rs. 40 per mensem and a clerk on Rs. 20 per mensem. This staff was fixed at the time of the general reorganisation of the Anchal Department undertaken in 1096. Since then, the work of this office, the Anchal Superintendent reports, has considerably increased. He says that taking the figures for 1096 and 1102, the Savings Bank transactions increased from 122 to 1,115, the Handies issued and delivered from 4 5 6 to 40,023 and the registered articles issued and delivered from 9 307 to 1,24,179. In addition to these works, it has to be remembered that Kottarakara is the central sorting station which has 12 sub-offices under it. The fact that it is the central sorting station gives an addition to the work which is considerable. All through the night mails arrive which have

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to be handled and transmitted to the four corners of the State. The mails from Chadayamangalam and other sub-offices arrive by 7 P. M. The northern mail, containing articles from the several offices in the Kottayam line, arrive by 9 P. M. Both these have to be sorted, booked and kept ready. The mails from Trivandrum arrive by 11 P. M. The articles conveyed have to be sorted and those to the Kottayam line have to be sent by the motor car at 2 A. M. At 3 A. M. arrives the mail from Shenkottah.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil cum Devicolam*): Is it for the sake of Rs. 20 that such a long speech is being made?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I have already said that my object is to give this House an opportunity to discuss the merits of a recurring expenditure, which is, as the member could have calculated, much more than Rs. 20. To Rs. 20 has to be added Rs. 15. It has then to be multiplied by 12 and then by infinity, because it may be for all time to come that the expenditure has to be incurred.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member whether there is any urgency with regard to this matter?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): It is absolutely urgent. I am coming to that point.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): How is the business now being carried on? Are there any arrears at present?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): It is not exactly a question of arrears but a more dangerous thing. It is mistake, delay and inconvenience.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Is the member of opinion that there is a large increase in the volume of work in Kottarakara alone?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Yes. It is much more pronounced in Kottarakara than elsewhere. I am coming to that point also.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Will the member give a comparative idea of the volume of work in Kottarakara and in other places?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Some comparative statistics will be furnished when the Annual Report for 1102 is published?

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Should we not be enlightened as to the nature of the work that is being done in other Anchal Offices as well?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): A comparative statement of the increase of work in he Kottarakara Anchal Office since 1096 has been furnished and I can furnish, if required, nformation with regard to some other offices also. It is only with regard o the Kottrakara Anchal Office, for special reasons, that an increase in he staff has been asked for.

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MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): That can be understood. But should we not also know whether there are other Anchal Offices wherein this volume of work has increased equally?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): There is no other Anchal Office in the State in which the work has increased to this extent.

MR. P. K NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know how long it is since the work has been increasing?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): It has been increasing steadily from 1096.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know approximately from what year the work has been enormously increasing?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The Kottarakara Anchal Office was made the central sorting station some three years back, and since that time the work was pronouncedly increasing.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Was not the present staff coping with the additional work till now?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I am coming to that. If you would only have the patience I shall tell you how the staff cannot now cope with the work.

As I told you, at 3 A. M. arrives the mail from Shenkottah. Then the articles received by the Northern mail, etc., sorted and kept ready, have to be despatched by this mail to Trivandrum, and before 6 A. M. the articles for the sub-offices have also to be despatched. When all these items of work are attended to, what chance there will be for the Anchal Master and his clerk to sleep, after their arduous work connected with the savings bank transactions etc., during day time, I leave to this House to imagine. Whatever chances there may be the inevitable result, the Anchal Superintendent informs me, is that there is misdirection of letters and consequent delay and inconvenience to the public. The Anchal Superintendent has been making proposals for strengthening the staff of certain offices where work has increased since the reorganisation in 1096. But many of these recommendations have been held up, I mean all the piecemeal recommendations have been held up so that they may be considered in connection with a general scheme of the reorganisation of the Department. A portion of the scheme, namely, the increase of pay and the strength of the delivery peons was put forward on the occasion of the last budget and it was sanctioned by this House. The present scheme, *i. e.* the special treatment to the Kottarakara Anchal Office, is justified by the special circumstances of the case and it is in the interests of public convenience and efficient discharge of work. I therefore trust the House will see its way to grant this demand.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know how many peons are attached to the Kottarakara Anchal Office and what is the pay of each peon?

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MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I do not exactly remember just at present the number of peons, but I may say that the demand is for clerical staff.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Therefore, does it mean that two clerks are to be appointed whose pay will be Rs. 10 per mensem per clerk?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): No. One clerk on Rs. 20 per mensem and another Rs. 15 per mensem.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): കൊട്ടാരക്കര ആഫീസിനുമാത്രം ഇത്ര ക്ലർക്കുമാർ ആകാം വേണമെന്നു പറയാനുള്ള കാരണമെന്തു്?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): കൊട്ടാരക്കരആഫീസിൽ അസാധാരണമായ നിലയിൽ ജോലി വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണു്.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILALI (*Quilon*): അവിടെ മാത്രം എന്തുകൊണ്ടു ജോലിവർദ്ധിച്ചു?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): അതു് ഒരു മദ്ധ്യ സ്റ്റേഷനാണു്.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): ഇതുപോലെ മറ്റു പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളുമുണ്ടെന്നറിയാമോ?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): There can be only one central station. There cannot be many centres.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): വേറെ മദ്ധ്യസ്റ്റേഷൻ ഉണ്ടോ?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): On that side of the state it is the central station. Of course, there are first class offices elsewhere like Trivandrum for instance.

MR. KURANDIPALLIL R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തും ജോലിക്കൂടുതലുണ്ടോ?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I am not asking for a grant for the Trivandrum Office.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir, it may look rather extraordinary that I should be opposing this demand, both in view of the fact that it is so small and also that Mr. Nilakanta Pilai has taken the trouble to post us with full information with regard to all the aspects bearing on the question. I thank him for the information. But I oppose the demand not certainly on the merits of the demand: I say that the Government has no business to ask the House for a grant however small it may be in regard to the Anchal Offices when the Government

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[Mr. A. K. Pillai.]

had the temerity, I would say, to disregard the resolution that this House has passed asking the Government to reduce the price of anchal cards and covers. (Mr. M. Sivatanu Pillai: *Hear, hear*). I say the Government have no business whatsoever to ask for a cash in regard to Anchal offices. I think we have got a right to ask for an explanation why they have not been able to carry out this resolution passed by this House. So my quarrel is not, as I said at the outset, in regard to the particular issue here, but with regard to a general question. So, I oppose it, and I leave it to the House to decide their attitude in regard to it.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Before voicing the same sentiments as those of Mr. A. K. Pillai, I must express my obligations to him for having reminded me of the long overdue obligation of the Government to this side of the House. It is true, Sir, that a resolution to reduce the price of cards and covers was passed by this House, and if I remember correct, by way of an answer to an interpellation, the Government member in charge of the question answered that the Government are still considering the question of the particular resolution demanding the reduction of the price of cards and covers. I will have particularly no objection whatsoever to allow the demand provided that the Government member will be in a position to assure us that the particular resolution will be considered favourably in the near future. With these few words, I beg to oppose the demand.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I rise to support the motion. I support the grant because the Kottarakara Anchal office does require additional hands to cope with the heavy work that has to be done there. What the nature of the heavy work is, has been explained by Mr. Nilakanta Pillai.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Has the member considered the question of transferring hands from places where there is less work instead of supporting the demand for increase of hands.

MR. C P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I have not found an instance where there are more hands than are necessary. The work of the Anchal Office at Kottarakara is increasing in many ways. We have got a mail train reaching Quilon at 11·30 in the night. There is another train coming at about 3·15 or 3-20 A. M. The Anchal office men have got to sort their bundles for both these trains. Then again letters which reach Kottarakara by these trains have to be sorted, and sent through the motor cars that arrive there from the north. One motor car reaches Kottarakara at about 8 o'clock in the night. It will remain there until about 4 o' clock. This car has to be supplied with all the letters that have to go to the north. Then again there is another bundle which has to be prepared to be sent to Chadayamangalam side. So Kottarakara is more or less a centre as described by Mr. Nilakanta Pillai. I know that the work in the Anchal Office at Kottarakara is so heavy that people who go there are put to very great difficulty in the matter of getting stamps and getting letters registered, and all that. And then again, the number of peons there is very small. We have got

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only one peon who has to take letters and who has to finish the work at the end of the day, so that we are unable to get all letters in time although the train reaches Kottarakara at night. We are able to get letters sometimes only at 11-30 on next day, because there is only one peon. Other peons have to go to mofussil parts which are 7 and 8 miles in distance, in some cases 12 or 14 miles. So, in this way the work of the Anchal Office has increased.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Does the member know that this demand is for the increase of clerks and not of peons?

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): We know practically in some offices these peons also work in the offices as the number of clerks is not sufficient; so much so that all peons are not sent out in time. That is what is practically done in most of the offices. Although I join hands with Mr. A. K. Pillai in opposing the motion on different grounds, so far as this expense is considered, it is absolutely necessary to give additional hands to this particular Anchal Office. I belong to Kottarakara and I know the conditions of the Anchal Office there fully. So, I support this grant.

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I have hardly anything to say, because the merits of the case which I preferred, have not been questioned. As for the attitude which the members on the other side of the House are advised to assume, I may perhaps be permitted to say that it is hardly justifiable. Cases are dealt with, generally, by this House on *their* merits.

The grant was put to the vote and declared carried.

LEGISLATION.

THE TRAVANCORE MINES AND MINERALS BILL.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, the Travancore Mines and Minerals Bill as reported by the Select Committee has to be taken up for further consideration. We have done with 41 clauses in the last Session. I now beg to move that the consideration of the Bill be continued.

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I beg to second the motion.

The motion was carried.

Clause 42.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The motion is with respect to the clause as it stood in the Bill published in the Gazette that it be deleted and in its place the clause proposed by me be substituted. With respect to the clause as proposed originally by the mover of the Bill I see that it has been recommended by the Select Committee to be omitted and therefore much argument is not needed to substantiate that portion of the amendment. The clause that is recommended by the Select Committee to be omitted stood like this:

"If any question arises as to whether any excavation or working is a mine within the meaning of this Regulation, the Government may decide the question and a certificate signed by the Chief Secretary to Government shall be conclusive on the point."

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